

ACS Monthly newsletter

April 2016

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Do You Know When Your
Passport Expires? **2**

What Happens If I Lose My
Passport? **2**

Voting Assistance
Workshop for Overseas **3**

Putting an Emergency
Contact on Your **4**

Tax Information for U.S.
Citizens Paying Taxes **5**

Upcoming Outreach Outside
of Seoul **6**

Embassy Closures **6**

Message from the ACS Team

Greetings,

This newsletter is a public service for U.S. citizens in the Republic of Korea. Please feel free to share this newsletter with other U.S. citizens.

Best wishes,

ACS Team
U.S. Embassy Seoul



Contact us!

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul 03141, Korea

- or -

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #9600, Box 9997
DPO AP, 96209-9997

E-mail: SeoulinfoACS@state.gov
English: <http://seoul.usembassy.gov>
Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea

Do You Know When Your Passport Expires?



It is important to keep track of your passport's expiration date, especially if you plan to travel this summer. Many countries, particularly those in Asia, require travelers to present a passport with at least six months' validity remaining in order to issue visas or allow entry. Examples include, but are not limited to, Indonesia, China, and Malaysia. The [travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) website will help you research the specific requirements of countries you plan to visit.

If your passport does not have at least six months' validity, many countries will send you back home (at your own expense!). Don't let a lack of planning ruin your summer travel plans! Please note that passport processing overseas takes 2 to 3 weeks so please plan carefully.

To obtain more information, please visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T0RqyF1nsE&list=UU6ZhpmNnLxIOYipqh8wbM3A>

What Happens If I Lose My Passport?

Passport security is of utmost importance to the U.S. Government. This is a gentle reminder to keep your passport in a secure place at all times. Please report the loss/theft of all U.S. passports to the local police, and apply for a replacement passport at the U.S. Embassy.

You will need to make an appointment and come in person to the Embassy. Please bring all related documents, such as a photo ID, police report of the lost/stolen passport, and payment. Please refer to our page on "Replacing a Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Passport" at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_lost_passport.html for more information.

If you lose two passports within ten years, by law, your next passport will be limited to one year. If you lose more than two passports within ten years, your next passport application will be even more closely scrutinized and your passport approval may be delayed and/or validity may be limited.

If you find a previously lost or stolen passport, do NOT try to use it. Because the passport has been identified as missing, any person (including the original owner) who tries to use it will have difficulties crossing international borders.

Voting Assistance Workshop for Overseas Voters - May 2



On May 2, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will visit Seoul to hold a workshop to help U.S. citizens obtain more information about overseas voting. FVAP works to ensure that overseas U.S. citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world.

How can I attend? Please RSVP at <http://goo.gl/forms/7AZ355bOIB> by April 25. To enter the event, you will need to bring photo ID. If you cannot attend, the workshop will also be broadcast on our website later.

If you cannot attend, please follow the steps below on overseas voting:

How do I get a ballot? Visit www.fvap.gov to kick off the process. It has overseas voting information and procedures for every state. Even if you've registered to vote in the past, you need to register again to request an absentee ballot from your state.

How do I send in my ballot? When you're ready to vote, drop off your completed ballot at the Embassy. Make sure you use the appropriate postage-paid return envelopes, or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, addressed to the relevant local election officials (check www.fvap.gov for this information).

Where do I get more information? Consult our step-by-step guide at http://photos.state.gov/libraries/korea/187344/ACS/Voting_2016.pdf. You can also www.fvap.gov or send us an email at VoteSeoul@state.gov

Putting an Emergency Contact on Your Passport Application



In the event of an emergency situation overseas, the Embassy makes every effort to reach U.S. citizens and their next of kin. But we need your help! When applying for a passport, please make sure to fill out the “Emergency Contact” section of the application form.

Why is an emergency contact needed? If the unthinkable happens, the Embassy needs to reach friends or family members whom you trust to take care of your affairs in the event of an actual emergency. The Embassy does not have this contact information unless you provide it to us.

Who makes a good emergency contact? An emergency contact is someone who does not normally travel with the applicant. For example, for child passport applicants, parents are not good emergency contacts as they will normally travel with their children. You may list an emergency contact that lives in the United States, Korea or another country (if the online form does not permit an international address, you may fill in a contact by hand after printing the form or during your appointment at the Embassy). Even partial contact information (i.e., only the phone number) is useful.

Tax Information for U.S. Citizens Overseas



Prepare for the 2016 Tax Filing Season

The 2016 tax filing season is here, and all U.S. citizens and resident aliens must file a U.S. individual income tax return for 2015, even if they permanently live outside the United States and may not owe any tax because of income exclusion or tax credit.

Q. Who Must File?

A. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien living or traveling outside the United States, you generally are required to file income tax returns, estate tax returns, and gift tax returns, and pay estimated tax in the same way as those residing in the United States. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

Your income, filing status, and age normally determine whether you must file an income tax return. Generally, you must file a return if your gross income from worldwide sources is at least the amount shown for your filing status in the Filing Requirements table in Chapter 1 of Publication 54, Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad.

Q. When is the 2015 Federal Tax Return Due?

A. Due date for Form 1040: April 15, 2016. Extensions for overseas tax filers may be possible. For detailed information on deadlines and required forms, please visit our website at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_federal.html

Upcoming Outreach Outside of Seoul



We offer passport, birth registration (Consular Report of Birth Abroad), and notarial services at military bases throughout Korea. Upcoming outreach events are below:

Yongsan Army Base: Weekly on Wednesdays (*Please note: we will only have half-day service on April 13 and will be closed on April 20.*)

Camp Casey: April 12, May 10 and June 14

Osan Air Base: May 3 and June 7

Appointments are required for many of these services. To make an appointment or obtain additional information, please see our website at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_off-site.html.

Embassy Closures

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on Thursday, May 5 (Orininal – Children’s Day) and Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day).